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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE: 8/26/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP),
aka
RM
ME FILE 157-1067

BLACK KNIGHTS INC.
RM
ME FILE 157-1312

On 8/21/68 Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis, Tenn., PD, furnished SA LAWRENCE copies of the following PD communications, one copy each of which is attached to each copy of this memorandum:

Attachments 7
1 - 167-1067, BOP
1 - 157-1312, BK
1 - 157-566, POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE, MAJOR URBAN AREAS
1 - 157-1168, RACIAL SITUATION, TENNESSEE
1 - 157-957, [redacted]
1 - 157-1000, [redacted]
1 - 157-1275, [redacted]
1 - 157-1361, [redacted]
1 - 157-1359, [redacted]
1 - 157-1384, [redacted]
1 - 157-1351, [redacted]
1 - 157-1292, [redacted]
1 - 157-1061, [redacted]
1 - 157-1399, [redacted]
1 - 170-1024, [redacted]
1 - 157-1277, [redacted]
1 - 100-4593, [redacted]
1 - 100-4711, [redacted]
1 - 157-927, [redacted]
1 - 100-3481, TENNESSEE COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS
1 - 66-1687-Sub, Dissemination
1 - 157-953, BLACK POWER INFILTRATION, NOP & WOPC

1 - 170-1040, [redacted]
1 - 170-1040-Sub
1 - 157[redacted]
1 - 157-1242, [redacted]
1 - 157-1349, [redacted]
1 - 157-1125, [redacted]
1 - 170-1034, [redacted]
1 - 170-866, [redacted]
1 - 157-1019, [redacted]
1 - 157-1258, [redacted]
1 - 157-1181, [redacted]
1 - 157-1362, [redacted]
1 - 100-662, NAACP
1 - 170-70-Sub, [redacted]
1 - 100-4518, [redacted]
1 - 44-1987, MURKIN

WHL:LF
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1) PD memo dated 8/21/68 from Lt. O. B. HOLCOMB, Intelligence Unit, setting forth results of his 8/21/68 contact with PD undercover agent, code name [redacted] regarding "Activities of Invaders 8/20/68 at the City Hall City Council meeting"

2) PD memo dated 8/20/68 regarding observations of Lt. ARKIN at the 8/20/68 City Council meeting concerning the Turnkey Housing Project

3) Two news clippings from The Commercial Appeal, Memphis newspaper, 8/21/68 issue, regarding the Council meeting and one clipping from Memphis Press-Scimitar edition of 8/20/68.

4) PD Memo of Patrolman W. B. RICHMOND, Intelligence Unit, regarding 8/20/68 activities at City Hall during the Turnkey Housing Project hearings concerning placing public housing in the Frayser area of Memphis.

It will be noted that prior to the Council meeting on 8/20/68, [redacted] advised that if City Council rejected Turnkey Housing then the Tennessee Council on Human Relations led by West Tennessee Field Director GERALD FANION and supported by black powerites, the Black Knights Inc., the Invaders, Black Organizing Project (BOP) and the Neighborhood Organizing Project (NOP) funded by OEO and War on Poverty Committee (WOPC), would march on the Shelby County jail where prisoner JAMES EARL RAY is incarcerated while being held on charges of the 4/4/68 assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. The basis for their march is that in Shelby County jail the authorities could provide air conditioned luxury for a white prisoner who killed KING but would not provide housing for the poor.

It will be recalled that on 8/19/68 GERALD FANION called the writer and said the Tennessee Council on Human Relations would go to City Hall to support Turnkey Housing and that "he hoped the Invaders, et al, would not come." It is apparent that FANION was being untruthful, for on 8/21/68 [redacted] advised the writer that Invader JOHN HENRY FERGUSON told informant that FANION solicited FERGUSON to get all of the Invaders

and BOP to City Hall the afternoon of 8/20/68 to support the Turnkey Housing Project and that FANION brought the signs for potential pickets and supervised the black protest.

[redacted] gave the writer a copy of a press release distributed by FANION early on 8/20/68, a xerox copy of which is attached to each copy of this mejo.

On the night of 8/20/68 and again on 8/22/68 [redacted] advised that the Black Nights had not received any advance notice, and that on the early afternoon of 8/20/68 GERALD FANION contacted BK Coordinator WARREN LEWIS and Mrs. WARREN LEWIS and invited them to participate in the City Hall protest. Informant advised that later on the afternoon of 8/20/68 WARREN LEWIS, his wife, ROOSEVELT GREEN, RAYMOND TAYLOR, Firestone employee MARION COLLINS, a female Negro whose name is not known, and two male Negroes, employees of the RCA plant, went to City Hall.

Informant identified many of the Invaders who were identified herein before, as did [redacted] made available numerous photographs taken of the group, including photographs of SHADA and his girlfriend, LANCE BALLARD and his girlfriend, JOYCE MC INTOSH, IDA BALLARD, CHARLES BALLARD, EDWIN CLIFTON SANDERS, GERALD FANION, MAXINE SMITH, WARREN LEWIS, Mrs. WARREN LEWIS, RAYMOND TAYLOR, ROOSEVELT GREEN, the two RCA Black Nights, the female Negro Black Knight, GEORLDEAN CHRISTIAN, three or four unknown Invaders, MARION COLLINS, JOHN HENRY FERGUSON, JOHN B. SMITH, ERIC LARD HOLMAN, a person believed to be MILTON MACK, CORNELIA CRENSHAW, EDWARD M. "TED" CARTER, VERDELL BROOKS and EDWARD CLIFTON SANDERS III.

[redacted] said SANDERS, who married the daughter of Negro society doctor Dr. BYAS, and who attends Wesleyan College in Connecticut, is a protege of Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON JR. SANDERS makes revolutionary statements and says blacks will have to go to physical with whites. It is inevitable. He is an intellectual and was giving a lot of advice to the Invader faction on 8/20/68.

[redacted] said there were no plans to engage in any violence, but FANION did want to march around the County jail if the Turnkey Housing Project was rejected.

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On 8/21/68 Lt. ARKIN advised the City Council deferred its vote until Tuesday, 8/27/68, and that it is anticipated that additional protests will take place on that date.